

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ABF-01 FSE-00 AGR-10 L-03

H-02 /082 W

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R 161616Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358

UNCLAS TUNIS 0299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, EGEN, EINV, ETRD, TS

SUBJ: STATUS OF ISSUES PENDING FROM JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS

STATUS OF PENDING JOINT COMMISSION ISSUES FOR WHICH
EMBOFF IS US ACTION OFFICER PER NEA/AFN DEC 15 MEMO AND
ACTION CHECKLIST IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TRADE AND INVESTMENT

(1) ALTHOUGH EMBASSY NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC RE GOT
ABILITY SUPPLY DATA ON IMPORT NEEDS OF GOVERNMENT AND
STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES, EMBASSY WILL PURSUE AT MEETING
OF TRADE WORKING GROUP EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE LATE THIS
MONTH OR IN FEBRUARY.

(2) EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
CEPEX AND TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVES OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY
BANK OF NEW YORK AND BANKERS TRUST RE PAYMENT SOR
TUNISIAN EXPORTS. PROBLEM APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED
FROM MISUNDERSTANDING AND HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ESOLVED
TO TUNISIAN SATISFACTION. BELIEVE ITEM CAN BE REMOVED
FROM CHECKLIST.

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(3) ALTHOUGH EMBOFF ONCE AGAIN RAISED DISCRIMI-

NATION AGAINST US EXPORTS BECAUSE OF ARTIFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE USED IN CONVERTING US DOLLAR QUOTATIONS WITH MINISTER NATIONAL ECONOMY LASRAM AS RECENTLY AS JAN 14, WE DOUBT THERE WILL BE MUCH PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL WE CAN DISCUSS IN TRADE WORKING GROUP NOTED ABOVE.

(4) AS RESULT OF REPEATED DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS MINISTRY NATIONAL ECONOMY AND MAGASIN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE THAT MAGASIN GENERAL HAS OBTAINED LICENSES FOR SUBSTANTIAL IMPORT OF AMERICAN CONSUMER GOODS (LARGELY GLASSWARE AND KITCHENWARE). CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING IMPORT LICENSES FOR GOODS SHOWN IN AMERICAN PAVILION AT TUNIS FAIR HAVE FORCED AT LEAST ONE COMPANY (SINGER) TO RETURN ITEMS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT GOT WIL ISSUE LICENSES FOR SOME ITEMS, PURPORTEDLY CONTRARY TO TUNISIAN IMPORT POLICY, BUT EMBASSY STILL HOPEFUL THAT TRADE WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL PERMIT RESOLUTION OF PENDING LICENSES.

(5) CONDITIONS FOR US INVESTMENT IN AGRIBUSINESS VENTURES DISCUSSED IN TUNIS 6421 (OCT 29, 1975). EMBASSY ALSO HAS TRANSMITTED TEXT OF ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION N OPIC "TOPICS" MAGAZINE (STATE 3722) TO MINISTRY AGRICULTURE FOR APPROVAL OR POSSIBLE AMPLIFICATION OR MODIFICATION. EMBASSY ALSO AWAITING RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO PRIME MINISTER AT HIS REQUEST IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF TUNISIAN POLICY IN THIS SECTOR.

B. OTHER

(1) RE ACTIVITY OF PRIVATE US FOUNDATIONS, EMBASSY AND USAID HAVE INFORMED SUCH FOUNDATIONS OPERATING IN TUNISIA OF MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DESIRE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THESE FOUNDATIONS IN TUNISIA. THIS INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED TO MOFA AND THIS PENDING ISSUE, WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR ON CHECKLIST, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SATISFIED.

(2) ON JAN 16 GOT SUBMITTED INFORMAL COMMENTS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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"MODEL AGREEMENT" FOR SFCP PROJECTS WHICH EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY WITH MOFA BEFORE SUBMITTAL TO WASHINGTON. SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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